

Message Text

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ACTION ARA-14

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 IO-13 ISO-00 CIAE-00 COME-00 EB-08

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FM AMEMBASSY CARACAS

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INFO AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

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AMEMBASSY MEXICO

AMEMBASSY SAN JOSE

AMEMBASSY SAO PAULO

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ELAB, PINT, VE

SUBJECT: VISIT BY PTTI SECRETARY GENERAL NEDZINSKY PRODUCES NO
SOLUTION TO DISAFFILIATION BY VENEZUELAN UNIONS

REF: CARACAS 1803

SUMMARY: GENERAL SECRETARY OF POST TELEGRAPH AND
TELEPHONE INTERNATIONAL (PTTI) STEFAN NEDZINSKY, AND
PTTI REGIONAL REPRESENTATIVE LOUIS MOORE AND STAFFER
PEPE LARCO VISITED CARACAS FEBRUARY 22-25 TO SEEK
REAFFILIATION OF VENEZUELAN COMMUNICATIONS UNIONS.
NEDZINSKY TOLD THE EMBASSY LABOR ATTACHE THAT NO
RESOLUTION OF AFFILIATION PROBLEM HAD BEEN REACHED,
THIS WOULD TAKE TIME, BUT THAT HE THOUGHT CLIMATE
OF RELATIONS HAD IMPROVED BETWEEN PTTI AND VENEZUELAN
LABOR MOVEMENT. PROBLEM PROBABLY WILL NOT BE RESOLVED
UNTIL AFTER PTTI'S OCTOBER CONGRESS. END SUMMARY

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1. PTTI GENERAL SECRETARY'S VISIT TO CARACAS PRE-
DICTABLY DID NOT PRODUCE A REAFFILIATION OF VENEZUELAN
UNIONS TO THE PTTI, BUT AT LEAST NEDZINSKY REESTABLISHED
DIALOGUE WITH THE VENEZUELAN. HE HAD A LONG MEETING
FEBRUARY 23 WITH CONFEDERATION OF VENEZUELAN WORKERS'
(CTV) PRESIDENT JOSE VARGAS AND INTERNATIONAL SECRETARY
MANUEL PENALVER TO WHICH MOORE WAS NOT INVITED.

SUBSEQUENTLY, MOORE AND NEDZINKSY WERE INVITED TO TWO LUNCHES BY CTV LEADERSHIP AND TO DINNER IN HONOR OF INTERNATIONAL METALWORKERS FEDERATION EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE. CORDIAL ATMOSPHERE PREVAILED AT LUNCH AND DINNER WHICH LABOR ATTACHE ATTENDED. NEDZINSKY TOLD LABOR ATTACHE TOWARD CONCLUSION OF HIS VISIT THAT NO DEFINITE COMPROMISE SOLUTIONS WERE PROPOSED, BUT THAT HE FELT IMPROVED CLIMATE BETWEEN CTV AND PTI WAS DISTINCT GAIN.

2. THERE IS NO EASY SOLUTION TO VENEZUELAN DISAFFILIATION PROBLEM. LUIS OJEDA, OF VENEZUELA'S TELEPHONE FEDERATION (FETRATTEL) REMAINS BITTER OVER HIS LOSS OF ELECTION AS PTI EXECUTIVE COUNCIL MEMBER AT SEPTEMBER INTER-AMERICAN CONGRESS TO CESAR OLARTE. OJEDA, A LOYAL MEMBER OF THE ACCION DEMOCRATICA PARTY RETAINS STRONG SUPPORT OF THE CTV TOP HIERARCHY WHILE OLARTE, A MEMBER OF THE VENEZUELAN MEP SPLINTER PARTY ENJOYS VIRTUALLY NO SUPPORT. THUS, IT SEEMS UNLIKELY VENEZUELAN UNIONS WILL AFFILIATE WITH PTI UNTIL OLARTE IS REMOVED FROM EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE. THIS COULD HAPPEN AUTOMATICALLY AT NEXT PTI CONGRESS IN OCTOBER 1978. OLARTE WILL HAVE NO BASIS FOR CONTINUATION IN HIS JOB SINCE VENEZUELAN UNIONS HE REPRESENTS WILL NOT BE MEMBERS. IN THIS CASE, FIRST ALTERNATE FROM PANAMA WOULD TAKE OVER OLARTE'S POSITION LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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LEAVING VENEZUELA WITH NO REPRESENTATION ON EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE.

3. CLEARLY, OLARTE DEPARTURE FROM EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE UNDER TERMS OUTLINED ABOVE WOULD SATISFY NO ONE FULLY. MANUAL PENALVER STATED THAT "WE HAVE-DISAFFILIATED; NOW IT IS UP TO PTI TO DEVELOP BASIS FOR REAFFILIATION." APPARENTLY, CTV HOPES PTI CAN FIND SOME MEANS UNDER ITS CONSTITUTION TO SUBSTITUTE OJEDA FOR OLARTE. PTI REGIONAL REP LOU MOORE STATES THAT THIS IS NOT POSSIBLE AND IF A DEAL WERE WORKED OUT TO BRING OJEDA IN, PROBABLY SEVEN OTHER LATIN AMERICAN UNIONS AND FEDERATIONS WOULD DISAFFILIATE FROM PTI. IT REMAINS TO BE SEEN WHETHER NEDZINSKY HAS CREATED A SUFFICIENTLY OPEN CLIMATE WHICH COULD ENABLE PTI TO ESTABLISH A RECONCILIATION WHICH WILL SATISFY ALL PARTIES. THE ODDS ARE THAT NOTHING CAN BE ACCOMPLISHED UNTIL THE OCTOBER PTI CONGRESS WHEN PERHAPS SOME COORIDOR ACCOMMODATION COULD BE REACHED WHICH WOULD SATISFY THE VENEZUELAN AND THE OTHER PARTIES TO THE DISPUTE. CROWLEY

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